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REPORTS on the MARINE BIOLOGY of the SUDANESE RED SEA, from Collections made by CYRIL CROSSLAND, M.A., B.Sc., F.Z.S. Communicated, with an Introduction, by W. A. HERDMAN, D.Sc., F.R.S., President of the Linnean Society.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

By Prof. W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S., P.L.S.

IN the summer of 1904 I was given the opportunity of selecting a Marine Biologist to investigate, under my general direction, the fauna and flora of the Sudan Coast of the Red Sea and the conditions under which they exist. The arrangement proposed and accepted was that the Naturalist appointed should receive my directions and advice before starting, should furnish me with frequent reports and send home collections as occasion offered, that the Liverpool Laboratory should be the home of the collections and headquarters of the expedition, that I should furnish such information and further directions from time to time as might be possible, and that finally we should publish a joint report upon the results at the conclusion of the investigation.

From several well-qualified young Naturalists who applied, I was fortunate in being able to select Mr. Cyril Crossland, who had already had experience in collecting in tropical seas under Sir Charles Eliot at Zanzibar, and on his own expedition at the Cape Verde Islands. That Mr. Crossland has again

shown himself to be a keen and indefatigable collector and an accomplished Zoologist will be abundantly evident from the pages that follow in this Report; but I am glad to have this opportunity of stating also how agreeable and helpful he has been throughout our intercourse, and how much pleasure it has given me to be associated with him in this joint enterprise.

Mr. Crossland left England in October 1904, and, after some necessary and not unprofitable delays in Egypt, reached the Red Sea and eventually Suakim early in 1905. He remained in that neighbourhood cruising both to the north and south, exploring the reefs and lagoons and investigating the marine fauna and flora in every possible way until May, and then returned home, bringing considerable collections which were partly sorted out and distributed to specialists during the ensuing summer and autumn.

These are the groups that will be reported on first in the sections that follow in the present volume. The rest of the collections are now being arranged in Liverpool under my supervision. There is a considerable amount of work to be done on such groups as the Crustacea, for example, in sorting out the material for the specialists; but I hope soon to have them all in the hands of those authorities who have kindly undertaken to examine and report.

In the winter of 1905 Mr. Crossland returned to the Sudan to an independent post, no longer under my direction. As a result of the conditions of his new appointment our original plan of work has required to be modified, and a comprehensive joint report such as we at first contemplated is no longer possible. With regret I have had to cancel, or at least indefinitely postpone, a title-page, which with other MSS. Mr. Crossland left in my hands, referring to such a general report under our joint authorship. It is just possible that if conditions are favourable we may be able to produce such a work at the conclusion of, or as an appendix to, the present series of reports. In the meantime, in my fellow-worker's absence—and he is much further, in time, from Suez than we are—I have had to do what seems best with the MSS. and the collections left in my care; and, with the kind advice of my colleagues at the Linnean Society, I have considered that to publish the following series as reports upon Mr. Crossland's collections, under my editorship, will best meet the views of all concerned and the interests of science.
